(b) if so, the average quantity of coal purchased annually along with the annual cost of the coal purchased during the year 2001 -2002;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ash content is also present in the coal purchased from Coal India Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the percentage of ash occurred in this coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The total quantity of coal purchased by NTPC during the year 2001 -02 was 76.60 Million Tonnes (Coal India Limited—67.93 MillionTonnes & Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.—8.67 Million Tonnes). The total cost of the coal purchased in the year 2001-02 was Rs. 7,176.60 crore.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The percentage of ash in coal purchased by NTPC ranges from 30% to 42%.

Collapse of Northern grid

152. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that throughout the month of January this year, there was complete breakdown of the Northern grid and Delhi and neighbouring States went without power;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such large scale power failure which takes place both in severe winter and summer with unfailing regularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was neither any case of breakdown of the Northern Grid nor any incidence of Delhi and neighbouring States going without power during January, 2003. However, due to heavy fog and inclement weather during most part of January, 2003 the demand of power had substantially increased in Northern Region. On the other hand, the flow of power from the Eastern part of Northern Region to the Western part was restricted due to outage of one pole of HVDC Rihand-Dadri line and also on account of restrictions imposed on some trunk transmission lines due to foggy weather conditions.

(c) Shortages in the Northern Region especially in peak winter and summer months occur due to wide gap between requirement and availability of power. To bridge the gap between demand and availability, the short and medium term measures taken are as under:

(i) Enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional transfer of power. Arrangements have been made enabling transfer of 500 MW of surplus power from Eastern Region to Northern Region through the recently commissioned HVDC back to back station,

(ii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in plant load factor of thermal units,

(iii) Reduction in transmission and Distribution losses,

(iv) Renovation and Modernisation of old and inefficient thermal generating units,

(v) Strengthening/Augmentation of sab-transmission and distribution systems of states under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme,

(vi) Demand side management and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures,

(vii) Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.

Production of power in Madhya Pradesh

†153. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of power in Madhya Pradesh at present and the quantity of production being carried out by the public sector companies and other companies;

(b) the total requirement of power in Madhya Pradesh and measures taken to meet the same;

(c) the number of MoLls signed by Government of Madhya Pradesh to increase the production of power and their present status; and

(d) the increase in the production of power in Madhya Pradesh (divided) during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) During the period April, 2002-January,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.